

THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE.

Various Matters Discussed in the Interest of the Public.

The regular meeting of the Town Committee was held in the committee-room on Wednesday evening, the 18th inst. Members present, Thos. Oaks, chairman; R. N. Dodd, F. S. Benson.

Among the bills presented to the committee for payment was one for medical attendance, board, nursing etc., of an unfortunate individual who, as stated by the overseer of the poor, had been originally from some place in Connecticut.

The committee were of the opinion that the matter was worthy of more consideration: Some of the charges in the bill were pronounced exorbitant, particularly the item for services in procuring a doctor, which nearly equalled fifty per cent of the doctor's charges. It was resolved to place the matter in hands of the proper committee for investigation.

The perturbed state of mind into which the committee were drawn by this apparently wholesale onslaught upon the public treasury had scarcely subsided, when it was again violently agitated by the presentation of another bill from the same source. A member speaking with prophetic forethought estimated that \$500.00 would not even meet the doctor bills if they were to grow in this manner.

The chairman was apparently of the same opinion.

He thought it was not right to run up bills like the one under consideration. It appeared like imposing upon the taxpayers. Well-defined lines should be drawn between what is done at our own expense, and what we have done at the public expense, and the pubic is given the benefit of all possible economy.

Mr. Voorhees requested to be informed as to whether he should use his own discretion in regulating such matters, particularly in regulating the number of visits a physician should make. He was informed that he held the office for that purpose and was expected to exercise discretion.

Several other bills were presented in regular order, none of which seemed to be worthy of particular discussion until a bill was presented for supplying provisions on orders issued by the overseer of the poor.

A committee-man asked if different items were stated in the bill. On being informed in the negative he raised the question as to the wisdom of paying bills presented in that form. The chairman asked the overseer if he was aware what goods were purchased on orders issued by him. He replied that he was, in nearly all cases. The chairman hinted at the possibility of recipients of such orders indulging in comparative luxuries at the public expense. Here an intensely practical discussion ensued between the chairman and Mr. Voorhees, as to what constituted necessities and what luxuries, in which salt-pork, dried fish, salt, pepper and canned goods were mentioned.

After further discussion and reasonable assurances that the bill was correct, it was ordered paid.

On representation by the gas committee that several of the town lamps were in bad order, the committee were empowered to purchase twenty-four new lanterns. Mr. John Causbrook, representing the gas company, here arose and asked the privilege of addressing the committee. His request being granted, he proceeded to state that in accordance with request the company had consented to allow the town to burn the gas one hour longer than the time stipulated in the contract.

Mr. Causbrook further informed the committee that he was authorized by the company to state to the committee that if they had in contemplation the using of electric light that the company were willing to expend a sum ranging between eight and ten thousand dollars in erecting a plant for furnishing the above mentioned light.

Mr. Causbrook suggested the advisability of Bloomfield and Montclair combining in this matter, and was emphatic in his assurances that the company he represented would furnish the light as cheap as it was possible for any other company to do.

The fire committee stated that they had received application for some of the old hose belonging to the town, and were accordingly instructed to sell it.

The sidewalk committee stated that constable Foster had informed them that he had received several complaints about bicycle riders using the sidewalk. The committee requested to be informed if there was an ordinance prohibiting such vehicles on the sidewalk. The subject evidently was not deemed of much importance, as no action was taken upon it.

The following is a summary of bills presented for payment: W. S. Lockwood, poor acct. \$27.75; Dr. W. H. Van Giesen, \$30.00.

The above were ordered paid.

A bill for medical attendance, board, nursing etc., \$34.50. Referred to Poor Committee.

On account of Fire Department: Runsey & Co., \$84.01; J. W. Baldwin & Bro., \$6.05; W. B. Corby, \$17.75; V. F. Corraz, \$10.75; Frank Foster \$5.00.

The above were ordered paid.

Contingent account: Henry Cueman, \$3.63. For firing salute on decoration day \$15.00.

The following bills were ordered paid: M. J. Callahan, Crosswall Construction, \$143.35; C. E. McDowell, Road Construction, \$400.00; M. J. Callahan Sidewalk Construction, \$124.66.

The following petitions for sidewalks were received: Mrs. E. H. Graves, Hillside Avenue; Dr. Kennedy, Franklin St.; F. B. Allen and E. P. Ward, Glenwood Avenue; A. G. Darwin, Hillside Avenue; A. G. Darwin, Snowde Street; A. G. Darwin, Ridgewood Avenue; A. G. Darwin, for Sidewalk Construction, Ridgewood Avenue.

All the above were referred to the Sidewalk Committee.

The matter of releasing portions of tracts of land from the list of taxes was discussed at length and referred to the township counsel with instructions to prepare proper forms for this purpose.

The following communications in regard to the fire department were received and approved:

From Excelsior Hose Company, the name of Henry Bleeker was struck off from membership roll for non-attendance. From Excelsior Hose Company, Wm. Krounich elected to membership.

ESSEX COUNTY WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION.

On Wednesday, the 18th inst., the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, of Essex Co., held its quarterly convention in the new and commodious Temperance hall on Belleville avenue, Newark. It was an all-day meeting and was one of interest and inspiration. The Unions were represented by seventy-five delegates and were as follows: First, Second and a Colorful Union of Newark, Orange and South Orange, Irvington, Montclair and Bloomfield.

Mrs. Denman, the County President, occupied the chair. Mrs. Downs, the State President, Mrs. Butler, until recently of the National, Mrs. White of Passaic Co. and Mrs. Seabrook, of Monmouth Co., were on the platform. The Rev. Mr. Houghland of the Centenary M. E. Church and the Rev. Robert Dransfield, of Glasgow, Scotland, were among the visitors. They both gave words of greeting and encouragement to those engaged in the cause of temperance. The convention was opened by Mrs. M. M. Watkins, of South Orange. The welcome was given by Mrs. Fallout, President of Second Union, Newark, and responded to by Mrs. Young, President of Irvington Union. After the reading of minutes of last convention and the reports from local Presidents, Mrs. Downs led in the noon-day prayer and in a few strong and earnest words carried the hearts of all present to the throne of Grace for help and strength. After the singing of the Doxology, the ladies were invited to adjourn to one of the rooms downstairs, where they found a bountiful lunch, kindly provided by the ladies in charge.

The afternoon session was opened by Mrs. H. W. Brown, who gave an interesting and helpful Bible reading. Mrs. De Hammond Murphy, County Superintendent of the Heredity and Hygiene Department and Mrs. C. C. Hussey, County Sup't of the Social Purity departments; both read papers on their departments, of work. Mrs. Hussey was vigorous in her words of warning and rebuke against the evil of social impurity which is attacking society and referred to many prominent writers on this subject. Mrs. Bachelder, State Sup't of Literature, had for sale a large number of temperance tracts, and many were distributed through the audience. Just before closing the question box was opened by Mrs. Downs and the questions answered in her clear and practical way. Mrs. Downs inspires us with confidence, and we congratulate the temperance ladies on having such a champion.

The convention closed with prayer and benediction by Rev. Mr. Dransfield. A strong interest was sustained all through the day, and a feeling of harmony and good will pervaded all that was done. We are sure a day spent thus will give an impetus to the work that will be felt through the County and State. The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

1st. Resolved: that we stand to-day as heretofore by the motto of our New Jersey State Union, viz., "Total abstinence for the individual, Prohibition for the State and Nation."

2d. Resolved: that it is inconsistent for members of the church U. to patronize grocers' stores where liquor is sold or any stores that do business on the Sabbath.

3d. Resolved, that the thanks of this convention are due to the Legislature for raising the age of consent to sixteen years, also, for a law for bidding young children in for adoption, also for the bill signed by the Governor. For the protection of women," attaching a penalty of \$1,000 fine and fifteen years imprisonment to men who entice young girls.

4th. Resolved, that this convention regards with special favor and gratitude to God the recent action of the New Jersey Legislature in passing the School Suffrage Bill, and we therefore call upon all to vote at the election of school trustees in their respective school districts.

5th. Resolved, that we will continue to bequeath the largest share in behalf of the Law and Order Association.

6th. Resolved, that our thanks are due to the sisters of the Eighth Ward Union, for their hearty entertainment at this county convention; to the visitors for their words of God-speed and to the sisters representing Unions in other counties for their words of encouragement and advice.

7th. Resolved, that copies of these resolutions be sent to Newark Daily Advertiser, Journal, News Register and New Jersey Temperance Gazette.

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